

The New Direction Congress:

Restoring the American Dream



Aid To The Gulf Coast Recovering From Hurricanes Katrina And Rita

Before the second anniversary of the nation's most devastating hurricane, the new Democratic majority in the 110th Congress sent the President recovery legislation that was signed into law.

The Gulf Coast aid jumpstarts recovery efforts crippled by FEMA's failures and a lack of government support, that compounded the initial mismanaged government and private contractor response. The aid includes:

- ★ Waiving the local matching requirement under the Stafford Act, that governs disaster assistance, saving the region \$1.9 billion and allowing work to begin on an estimated 20,000 stalled projects;
- ★ Providing \$6.4 billion in assistance to help bolster levees, restore the coastline, recruit teachers, keep schools open, maintain health facilities, assist farmers and fishermen, provide housing assistance, assist small businesses, and retain law enforcement and other essential government employees; and
- ★ Exercising much-needed Congressional oversight-House Committees have held over 30 hearings on Katrina recovery, including revealing billions of taxpayer dollars lost to contractor waste, fraud, and abuse.